

**CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
DECEMBER 14, 2016  
WILLIAM A. BRIGGS BUILDING (REED CONFERENCE ROOM)  
845 PARK AVENUE, CRANSTON, RI  
EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 P.M.  
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

**MINUTES**

The School Committee meeting was held on the evening of the above date at the William A. Briggs Building with the following members present: Chairperson Ruggieri, Mr. Fusco, Mr. Gale, Mr. Traficante and Mr. Wall. Attorney Cascione was present during Executive Session.

Mrs. Culhane and Mr. Colford were absent with cause.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. **It was moved by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Gale to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RI State Laws. The roll was called; all were in favor: Mr. Colford – Absent; Mrs. Culhane – Absent; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes.**

PL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel:

PL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining/Litigation:

- a. Custodians
- b. Teachers
- c. Teacher Assistants
- d. Bus Aides
- e. Technical Assistants
- f. Secretaries

PL 42-46-5(3)

- a. District Safety Plan

Adjourn Executive Session

Call to Order - Public Session at 6:20 p.m.

The roll was called; a Quorum was present

Executive Session Minutes were sealed – Mrs. Ruggieri stated that no votes were taken in Executive Session and that all personnel listed above were notified. **A motion was made to seal the minutes of the executive session by Mr. Wall; seconded by Mr. Traficante. The roll was called; Mr. Colford – Absent; Mrs. Culhane – Absent; Mr. Fusco – Yes; Mr. Gale – Yes; Mrs. Ruggieri – Yes; Mr. Traficante – Yes; Mr. Wall – Yes. All were in favor.**

**Adjourn to Public Work Session**

**A motion to take the Agenda out of order was made by Mr. Gale; seconded by Mr. Wall. The roll was called; all were in favor.**

### **Discussion on donation from Alan Shawn Feinstein**

Assistant Superintendent Cole presented to the School Committee an opportunity for the following schools to become Feinstein Leadership Schools. **(For additional information, see Handout A on file with the Superintendent's Office)**

- Schools to join the Alan Shawn Feinstein Foundation Program
  - o Arlington Elementary
  - o George J. Peters Elementary
  - o Stadium Elementary
- 1x10 signage on the buildings
  - o Installed and maintained by the Feinstein Foundation
- Recognized as Feinstein Leadership school

**It was requested that this request be put on the next meeting agenda for vote.**

### **Blue Cross Plan Changes**

Joe Balducci and Raymond Votto presented to the School Committee potential options in coverage under Blue Cross. **(For additional information, see Handout B & C on file with the Superintendent's Office)**

- If given as options they would be effective 7/1/17.
- Chairperson Ruggieri requested additional information on the options and to bring them back to the School Committee in February/March of next year.
- Changes in Pharmacy Manager
  - o Effective 1/1/17
  - o Prime Therapeutic

### **Discussion on the revision/amendment of the following policy in the 5000 Series – Students:**

Assistant Superintendent Norma Cole presented to the School Committee some edits/changes to Policy 5111.1 – Early Admission to Kindergarten. **(For additional information, see attached Policy)**

- Shortened the window to apply
- Moved back the date for accepting applications
- Changed the expectation for academics to be more flexible.

**It was requested that this item be put on the next agenda for discussion and vote.**

Michele Simpson presented to the School Committee a minor change to Policy 5141.4 – Emergency and First Aid Procedures. **(For additional information, see attached policy)**

**It was requested that this item be put on the next agenda for discussion and vote.**

Discussion/Review of Personnel - 4000 Series (**see policies on file with the Superintendent's office**)

Chairperson Ruggieri reviewed the series and noted that no changes were being made. These policies can be put on the CPS website as is.

### **NEASC Update**

Superintendent Nota-Masse provided an update to the School Committee on the upcoming visit.

- Scheduled for March 12-15, 2017.
- Finalizing accommodations
- Attended the NEASC Conference in Boston
  - o Great conference

### **Scheduling Committees**

Superintendent Nota-Masse provided an update to the School Committee with Scheduling Committees.

- Joe Rotz is working with Norma Cole on putting the logistics together.
- Teams on middle school and high school side.
- Making lots of progress.

### **Adjournment**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Traficante; seconded by Mr. Gale. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m..**

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie A. G. Culhane  
Vice Chairperson

## **Early Admission to Kindergarten**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the early years of a student's educational experience provide the solid foundation critical to ongoing academic success. Since the first years are so essential to a successful long-term educational experience, every effort is made to ensure that students entering kindergarten are ready to learn and be successful. The Cranston School Committee, in accordance with Rhode Island state regulation, holds that students are best served when they enter school at the ages research indicates is most conducive to long-term success. However, this policy and state regulation have prescribed the consideration of the individual needs of students for early entrance.

### **Issues**

The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires careful consideration of all factors. Early entrance should be considered only when there is solid evidence that the child will be able to function "at or above" average kindergarten level. Although a child may be somewhat above average for his/her age group, careful consideration should be given to school placement so that a child will not be placed in a situation in which he/she will encounter difficulty maintaining average performance due to an age differential. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to kindergarten is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and a thoughtful balance of the myriad of factors which include the child's social, emotional, physical and intellectual capabilities.

### **Position**

It is the presumption of the Cranston School Committee that students will enter kindergarten at the ages prescribed by Rhode Island state regulation, age five on or before September 1st. The Cranston School Committee understands that students whose birth dates closely miss the cutoff date for school attendance may have educational needs or demonstrated capabilities that warrant early admission to kindergarten.

### **Procedures**

The kindergarten early entrance procedures are designed to identify and place those children in kindergarten who:

1. Is a Cranston resident who will turn 5 years of age between ~~September 2 and October 15~~ **September 2<sup>Nd</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>** of the enrollment year, which is the screening period for all Cranston kindergarten students.
2. Is believed by parent(s), guardian(s), and/or teachers as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement in kindergarten and; are selected on the basis of evaluations conducted by district personnel with evidence of strength in mental ability, fine and gross motor ability, visual and auditory discrimination, social/emotional, development, and communication skills.
3. Has completed one full year of preschool.

**The following procedures will be used to address all requests for early kindergarten admission:**

1. Applications for early admission to Kindergarten will be accepted between ~~April 1 & June 1~~ **May 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>** by the Assistant Superintendent. The initial application will include:
  - An up-to-date and certified immunizations record.
  - A certified birth certificate.
  - A letter of recommendation supporting early entrance from their preschool of attendance (child must have one full year of preschool).
2. An evaluation of the child's potential to benefit from early admission to kindergarten is required. Parent(s)/guardian(s) authorization for any evaluation is required. The evaluation will be at no cost to the parent(s)/guardian(s). It shall be completed within a reasonable time period by qualified personnel as assigned by the Cranston School Department.
3. In order to withstand the rigors of the kindergarten program, the early entry student must be able to demonstrate that he/she has the social-emotional, intellectual and developmental level of a five year old. To assess these areas, the following instruments will be used in the following order:
  - a. School Readiness Assessment. This includes two parts:
    - Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will complete a standardized rating scale that measures social/emotional development and
    - Students will participate in an assessment that evaluates foundational academic concepts necessary for kindergarten. Students must score ~~in the 90% solidly in the kindergarten age range for instruction in the academic/cognitive domain~~ to move onto the next evaluation.
  - b. Intelligence Assessment. Those students who score in at least the 95% will qualify for early admission to kindergarten.
4. After the evaluation is completed, ~~a conference will be held with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to consider appropriateness of early entrance into kindergarten~~ the parent/guardian will be notified of the results of the evaluation. A written summary of the evaluation findings shall be made available to the parent(s)/guardian(s).
5. The decision of the Early Childhood Evaluation Team (ECET) to offer early admittance to kindergarten will be forwarded to the Assistant Superintendent. If a decision is made to not allow a child early admittance to kindergarten, there will be no appeal process regarding the decision of the Early Childhood Evaluation Team for early kindergarten admittance.
6. Student candidates for early entry to kindergarten will not be considered for placement in their home school if this causes the kindergarten enrollment to exceed the maximum allowable class size limit. Should this occur, other Cranston School Department kindergarten classrooms with space for additional kindergarten students will be made available. In this situation, early entrant children will not be provided transportation. In the rare event that all classrooms in the district are at capacity, early admittance to kindergarten will not be offered.

**Students****Emergency and First Aid Procedures**

The Cranston Public Schools recognizes that in some cases it may be necessary to administer emergency and first aid procedures during school hours.

Cranston Public Schools will strictly adhere to all state regulations which are examined on an annual basis. As such, the Cranston School Committee fully supports Rhode Island Rules and Regulations for School Health Programs Section 17.0 *First Aid and Emergencies* and directs the administration to establish procedure to comply with these Rules and Regulations.

Policy Adopted: July 14, 2008

CRANSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND